In Wyville Thomson's 'Depths of the Sea,' 1873, p. 463, it is stated: "*Cerithium granosum*, S. V. Wood, is also common to Norway and Shetland;" and I myself have a small dead specimen which was given me by my late friend Mr. E. Waller as from "Shetland;" but Jeffreys does not give a station in his report which is in the Shetland Sea. The following, however, establish its claims to be included in our fauna:—'Porcupine,' 1869, St. 23 *a*, lat. 56° 13′ N., long. 14° 18′ W., that is, south of Rockall in 420 fathoms; Stations 89 and 90, which were on the '*Holtenia*' ground, N.W. of the Butt of Lewis, lat. 59° 38′ to 41′, long. 7° 46′ to 34′ W., in 445 and 458 fathoms.

It was also taken to the north of our area by 'Lightning,' St. 2, and 'Porcupine,' 1869, St. 65. I have myself dredged it in several places on the west of Norway, and Sars has recorded it from Finmark. As a fossil it occurs in the Red and Coralline Crags, and also in the Antwerp Crag.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Insects, their Structure and Life. A Primer of Entomology. By George H. Carpenter, B.Sc. Lond. Pp. xi, 404. London, J. M. Dent & Co.

In this useful little book Mr. Carpenter has given a sketch of the structure of insects in general (the cockroach being taken as a typical example), and an abstract of the classification, structure, habits, and pedigree of insects, not forgetting to add a Bibliography and Index. Although the book does not profess much originality, it is well arranged, and contains a large amount of information which it would require much time and trouble to collect elsewhere, even with the aid of the bibliography which Mr. Carpenter has appended to his work. The non-technical portions (those dealing with habits, evolution, pedigree, &c.) are written in a very clear and pleasing style, and may interest many readers who might not care for the more technical parts of a work on entomology; for the subject is so vast and varied that it presents ample materials for study, equally to the systematist, the comparative anatomist, the field naturalist, the geologist, the philosopher, and the amateur who wishes for as much general superficial knowledge of everything as he can obtain.

It is not to be supposed that a book of such a comprehensive character can be free from error; but although we may not always agree with the author's conclusions, we have not noticed anything which we should be disposed to regard as seriously detracting from its value. The amount of space devoted to different parts of the subject, the reliability and real importance of various observations and experiments, the mutual affinities of different families of insects, the probable number of existing species of insects, and the problems of Evolution and Geographical Distribution are all subjects on which no general consensus of opinion can at present be expected.

We should mention that the numerous illustrations, though not original, are taken from a variety of sources, many of which are not very easily accessible, and a considerable number from American periodicals.

There is much work still to be done in entomology, and as each generation of entomologists starts with far greater facilities for work than their predecessors have enjoyed, it is from the younger entomologists, like Mr. Carpenter, that we may confidently expect a large increase of our knowledge of the insect-world.

Cries and Call-notes of Birds: with Musical Illustrations.
By C. A. Witchell. 8vo. Upcott Gill, 1899.

The study which Mr. Witchell has for years past devoted to the songs and notes of birds, and his musical training, have fitted him beyond all other ornithologists to produce a reliable popular work on the subject.

To those who have read with pleasure Mr. Witchell's most fascinating book 'The Evolution of Bird-Song,' the present more modest little work will be welcome; it occupies only eighty pages, but these are crowded with information. The effort to record the Nightingale's song in musical notation is a marvel of patient effort and indomitable pluck on the part of the author. We would recommend all lovers of British birds to spend a shilling in securing this valuable addition to their libraries.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Parthenogenesis. By Thomas Meehan.

It is about two hundred years ago since Camerarius recorded the fact that female mulberries and other trees would produce fruit without pollinization, though such fruit was sterile. These observations have since been abundantly confirmed. The necessity of pollen to fertile seed came to be regarded as absolute law until some fifty years ago, when the Curator at Kew, Mr. John Smith, announced that an Australian plant of which he had but one female specimen perfected its seeds. It proved to be a new Euphorbiaceæ, and he named it *Cælebogyne ilicifolia*—the generic name from its supposed parthenogenetal character.

The author of this paper was a student in Kew at that time, and well remembers the incredulity with which the announcement was received, that nature should seem to make a universal law in relation to method of reproduction, and yet make a striking exception in this case. Nature furnishes infinite variation, but these variations seem to be only of one general plan. It seemed more probable that, in some method unexplained, pollen had been formed, and really pollinated the embryo. It does not appear that any further observations on this plant were made at Kew, or, if made, recorded.

Strasburger took up the subject again in 1878; but though my good friend Mr. George Nicholson, Curator of Kew, writes under date of April 10, 1897, that "the whole business has been threshed out by Strasburger," the latter seems to be more concerned about